

A LOOK AT THE BOOK TITUS

Ralph Porter
© 2003

BACKGROUND

After Paul wrote 1 Timothy he visited Crete. He had been there earlier, while on his way to Rome. It is not known whether he founded the church there. When he found problems at the church, he left Titus to correct them.

Titus was a faithful co-worker. He had been sent to handle serious problems at Corinth twice. His ability there is witnessed in Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Now he is to organize the church in Crete.

The situation in Crete is discouraging. There is lots of religion but little relationship between religion and life. *This attitude toward religion had affected the church in Crete also.* Therefore corrective action was necessary.

Religious profession had little effect on daily living.

Major problem: False teachers

- Legalism--earn your own way to God (1:14)
- Ritualism--Religion without power-- without Christ (1:16)
- Paganism--Religion that didn't affect lifestyle. (1:16)

Do we see this kind of lifestyle reflected around us, in our own culture?

To what extent has this attitude affected our church?

What can we do about it?

Solution: Leave Titus to straighten out what was crooked.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Paul writes to encourage Titus in the midst of a discouraging situation. The content of the book is to serve as a guide for Titus as to what Paul expects him to do there. He is to organize the church and he is to deal with their attitude toward religion.

Sound doctrine should be accompanied by a sound lifestyle.

Notice the emphasis on "doing what is good" 1:8, 16; 2:3, 7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14

Paul's main thesis is that sound doctrine should be accompanied by sound practice.

The false teachers at Crete, which include the Judaizers, have demonstrated the emptiness of their systems by their lifestyles. False doctrine has produced corrupt lifestyles.

Paul exhorts them to demonstrate the truth of their doctrine by a proper lifestyle.

HOW DOES THIS EXHORTATION RELATE TO CHRISTIAN LIVING TODAY?

TITUS

Sound Doctrine Produces Sound Practice

Ralph Porter

| Authentication of True Leaders 1:1-16 | Adornment of True Believers 2:1-3:2 | Transformation of True Believers 3:3-7 | Implications for True Ministry 3:8-15 |
|---|---|--|---|
| Greeting 1:1-4 | Attractiveness of a Godly lifestyle 2:1-10 | Our Previous Condition 3:3 | Profitable Encouragement to Godliness 3:8 |
| Commission Given to Titus 1:5 | Summary exhortation 2:1 Application to mature men 2:2 | | |
| Good Testimony Required of True Leaders 1:6-9 | Application to mature and young women 2:3-5 Application to young men 2:6-8 | God's Present Transformation 3:4-7 | Unprofitable Controversies over Foolishness 3:9 |
| In their home 1:6 | Application to slaves 2:9-10 | The fact 3:4-5a | |
| In their personal lives 1:7-8 | Motivation for a Godly Lifestyle 2:11-14 | The means 3:5b-6 | Judgment Prescribed for Divisiveness 3:10-11 |
| In their use of God's Word 1:9 | The fruit of God's grace 2:11-12 | The purpose 3:7 | |
| Bad Testimony Modelled by False Leaders 1:10-16 | The purpose of God's grace 2:13-14 | | Personal Instructions 3:12-14 |
| Their description 1:10-12 | Description of a Godly Lifestyle 2:15-3:2 | | Plans for Titus 3:12 |
| The solution 1:13-21 | Authority of the message 2:15 | | Importance of hospitality 3:13-14 |
| | Testimony before government 3:1 | | |
| | Testimony before neighbors 3:2 | | |
| | | | Closing Greetings and Benediction 3:15 |